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COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.:

TOPIC: Reorganization of the East German Grenzpolizei

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REMARKS:

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1. The reorganization of the VP Grenzpolizei Bereitschaften assigned to duty along the zonal border was the subject of discussion during a meeting of the party control commission at the headquarters of the Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft in Saalburg. The headquarters were formerly in Gießfeld. The meeting took place in Hirschberg on 7 January 1952 and was attended by: VP Inspektour Saenger (fnu), SSD Inspektour of the VP Hauptverwaltung for Land Thuringia in Jena; VP Oberrat Hartstock (fnu) from the party control commission in Berlin; an unidentified Soviet major; and four officers of the VP Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft in Saalburg, namely VP Oberrat Wagner (fnu), co manding officer, VP Rat Beuthe (fnu), chief of staff, VP Oberkommissar Repin (fnu), officer in charge of SSD affairs, and VP Kommissar Voelland (fnu), officer in charge of criminal police affairs.
2. During the meeting, it was learned that the past and future reinforcement of the VP Grenzpolizei was necessary in order to curb the mass infiltration of Western agents into the Soviet Zone of Germany and to secure the zonal border because of the increasing remilitarization of West Germany. It was said that reinforcements for the Grenzpolizei would be furnished by assigning NVA units to various police posts, including Loebau, Weiningen and Cera. The NVA police who were newly assigned to Grenzpolizei Kommandos were to hold key positions, such as that of a leader of border guard detail or of a squad, and were to function as drill instructors for the Grenzpolizei personnel. The units were to be drilled in the operation of submachine guns, machine guns and mortars. In conjunction with the reorganization, SSD secretaries and PDJ instructors were to be assigned to the Grenzpolizei Kommandanturen.
3. It was announced that VP Chefinspektour Kuschinsky (fnu), previously chief of the entire Grenzpolizei, was replaced by VP Chefinspektour Stock (fnu) and reassigned to the NVA. Kuschinsky was said to have accidentally killed his driver with his pistol.
4. Under the reorganization program for the Grenzpolizei, which was initiated on 1 January 1952, the Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft in Weiningen was assigned about 100 additional police from NVA units. For example, the Grenzwache

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in Mendhausen of the Grenzkommando in Behrungen received five police who previously served with the Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VD) in Erfurt, and the Grenzwache in Eicha and Milz, received several police who had previously served with the VPD in Gotha. These policemen from the VPD in Erfurt said that the unit's mortar Abteilung had been deactivated and that a new mortar Abteilung would be activated from newly inducted police.

5. Under the reorganization program, the Grenzkommando in Mendhausen of the Grenzkommandantur in Roemhild which belonged to the Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft in Meiningen was dissolved. Effective 1 January 1952, the Grenzkommandantur in Roemhild was organized into three Grenz-kommandos, namely one in Schwickershausen with Grenzwachen in Schwickershausen and Berka; a second in Behrungen with Grenzwachen in Behrungen and Mendhausen; and a third in Eicha with Grenzwachen in Eicha and Milz. Each Grenzwache had an authorized strength of 35 police, but most of them were understrength.
6. In mid-December 1951, the chief of the Grenzkommando in Mendhausen announced during classroom instruction that the Grenzpolizei had been subordinate to the HVA since October 1951, allegedly to facilitate the training of the Grenzpolizei personnel. [REDACTED]
7. The reorganization of the Grenzkommandantur in Geismar of the Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft in Muehlhausen began in early January 1952 and was allegedly to be completed by 15 March. It was said that the entire Grenzpolizei personnel would be gradually replaced by personnel from HVA units. For example, VP Unterkommissare from VDs were to assume command of the Grenzwachen. Grenzwachen have an authorized strength of 33 police each. It was also announced that new police posts would be established under a program providing for two Grenzwachen to each Grenzkommando.
8. The Grenzkommandantur in Geismar has been reorganized as follows: one Grenzkommando located in Mendhausen with Grenzwachen in Volkerode and Asbach; and the third in Bebandorf with Grenzwachen in Bebandorf and Grosstoepfer. The Grenzwache in Hildebrandshausen was the former Grenzkommando in Faulungen which was reinforced on 1 January 1952 by six police from the VPD in Frankenberg.
9. On 15 December 1951, all members of the former Grenzkommando in Faulungen were informed of a teletype message stating that operational staffs had resumed their functions at the Landespolizeibehoerden (Landespolizei Administrative Offices.):

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[REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms previous information on the reorganization and reinforcement of the Grenzpolizei after 1 January 1952. Under this program, an average Grenzkommandantur which previously had four Grenzkommandos was reduced to three Grenzkommandos, with two Grenzwachen to a Grenzkommando. Each Grenzkommando previously had an authorized strength of 12 police. The reorganization provides for a staff of 8 police for each Grenzkommando and for an authorized strength of 33 police for each of the two Grenzwachen subordinate to a Grenzkommando. By this measure, the authorized strength of a Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft was increased from about 620 to about 960 police, that is by 17 percent. However, the Grenzpolizei components are still generally below their authorized strengths. The increase in the numerical strength of the Grenzpolizei was effected by the reassignment to the Grenzpolizei of HVA personnel who completed their three-year terms with the HVA. It appears that specific VPDs of the HVA act in some way as sponsor of specific Grenzpolizei Bereitschaften. The reassignment of HVA officers to the Grenzpolizei and their appointment as chiefs of Grenzwachen are probably designed to promote infantry training among the Grenzpolizei personnel. The Grenzpolizei thus has become a reserve manpower pool for the paramilitary police of the HVA. The statement in paragraph 6 of the present report to the effect that the Grenzpolizei has been placed under the jurisdiction of the HVA has not been substantiated to date and is not given credence.

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